

10/088558

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 440571

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kenneth M. WILLIAMSON et al.

United States National Phase of
International Application
No. PCT/US00/26112

Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: March 19, 2002

For: FILTER ELEMENTS AND FILTERING
METHODS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Replace the existing claims with:

3. A filter element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first functional drainage layer has an edgewise flow resistance at most approximately 50% that of the filter layer.
4. A filter element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first leg contacts the second leg of the same pleat and the second leg of an adjoining pleat over a substantially continuous region extending for a substantial portion of the height of the first leg and over at least fifty percent of an axial length of the filter element.
5. A filter element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pleated composite includes a second functional drainage layer disposed on the second side of the filter layer and comprising a functional material and having a lower edgewise flow resistance than the filter layer.

